

## Abstract

The present invention relates to novel hepatitis B virus vectors for use in gene therapy which can deliver therapeutic genes to liver cells. The invention also provides methods for the production of novel recombinant hepatitis B viruses. The recombinant viruses produced by this invention can deliver therapeutic genes specifically to liver cells either through *in vivo* or *ex vivo* therapy protocols. This vector can be used not only to treat liver diseases but also genetic diseases.

10

15

20

25

0807297 041901